



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Weekending: May 5, 2013

Number: 9

Released: May 6, 2013

Special Note:

Alert! The window to respond to the Census of Agriculture is almost closed!

There are only a few weeks left to complete and return the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Because time is running out, NASS may contact you or farmers in your area by phone or in person to collect information for the Census. ***Help ensure you and your industry have the most complete set of agricultural statistics available for your country or county.*** For more information or for help filling out your Census form, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (888) 424-7828.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR May 5, 2013

It was another cold week for Virginia. On average, the state was about 2 degrees below normal. Parts of Virginia experienced nighttime lows in the low 40s and below. The cold weather persuaded some farmers to hold back on planting crops. Emerged corn was growing slowly due to the temperature. Days suitable for field work were 4.9. Pastures and cool weather hay crops were thriving in the cooler temperatures. Mildew and mold was a concern. Producers were not able to apply timely applications of fungicides due to rain. The need for rain was diverse; some areas had plenty and were waiting for the ground to dry, while other areas were in need for rain. Other farming activities included spraying herbicides, applying fertilizers, and scouting for bug pressure.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 5, 2013	1	6	81	12
April 28, 2013	0	7	79	14
April 21, 2013	1	9	76	14
April 14, 2013	0	4	79	17

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 5, 2013	1	9	84	6
April 28, 2013	1	7	83	9
April 21, 2013	2	5	85	8
April 14, 2013	1	4	79	16

IN THIS REPORT:

Crop Condition Percent	pg 2
Crop Progress Percent With Comparisons	pg 2
Weather Summary Table	pg 3
Reporter Comments by County	pg 3,4

Virginia Cooperative Extension Service

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

 **VirginiaTech**
Invent the Future


VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	8	31	49	11
Livestock	1	5	19	64	11
Hay, Other	1	3	39	49	8
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	38	52	9
Corn	0	0	37	60	3
Winter Wheat	1	2	28	56	13
Barley	0	2	22	66	10
Oats	0	0	17	75	8
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	3	32	44	21
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	45	55	0
Apples, All	0	0	24	76	0
Peaches	0	0	31	66	3
Grapes	0	0	15	84	1
Potatoes, Summer	0	0	12	84	4

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	68	58	77	68
Corn Emerged	43	30	53	39
Winter Wheat Headed	62	23	91	64
Soybean Planted	5	2	9	8
Flue Tobacco Transplanted	12	10	25	28
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	6	N/A	8	5
Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	19	N/A	8	6
Peanuts	10	N/A	4	7
Cotton Planted	1	0	24	27

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING May 5, 2013

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar 1. To May 5	Mar. 1 to May 5 Norm	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	65	49	72	42	57	-2	464	465	0.49	6.70	-1.09	14.33	-0.14
Norfolk	63	53	67	45	58	-3	454	494	1.46	5.82	-2.04	13.38	-1.82
Richmond	68	49	70	44	59	-2	509	541	1.01	8.45	0.70	16.38	2.14
Roanoke	67	52	72	47	59	-1	462	na	0.33	6.37	-1.59	15.65	1.43
Wash/Dulles	66	46	70	38	56	-1	386	na	0.13	5.50	-1.73	10.83	-2.21

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

WESTERN

AUGUSTA (Matt Booher)

Nights are still rather cool, which is fine for cool-season hay and pasture, but makes soils slow to warm for planting corn and soybeans.

BOTETOURT

Ground is dry, looking forward to much needed rain in the forecast. Temps could be higher. Cool wet ground will make corn planting risky until temps rise.

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Cool nights and limited moisture are keeping spring flush of grasses from occurring.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Dry conditions but cool temperatures allowed field work to progress this week, but spring planting is still well behind its normal pace. Small grains and cool season grasses appear to be pushing out seed heads without much height or leaf area on the plant. Forecast for continued cool and wet conditions do not bode well for first cutting hay yields or small grain yields. Pasture is abundant.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Wet earlier in the week, cloudy and temperatures have been cool. Not much tobacco planted yet due to the cool temperatures and still a little wet for conventional land. Small grains are looking really good. Spring planting is running maybe a week to 10 days behind due to the cool temperatures. But they will catch up.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Last week we had Rain on Monday with showers lingering into Tuesday...I measured .75 inches at my western Hanover home. I think there was more in the

central and eastern parts of the county. Below average temperatures are still causing growing problems....items planted in my vegetable garden are very very slow to germinate and emerge....our general growing season is about a month behind the norm.... pasture and hayland grasses are also way behind. Normally we have haybines in the field and crop being stored....I have not observed or heard of any such activity yet this year.

NELSON (Michael Lachance)

Tree fruit are being chemically thinned to insure high quality fruit size.

SPOTSYLVANIA (John Howe)

Barley is 100% headed out.

SOUTHWEST

BLAND (Jeannie Dudding)

Hay and pasture are growing relatively slowly. The weather is continuing to be on the cool side for this time of year. Warmer temps have just arrived in the past 2 weeks. Producers are just now getting fertilizer down as it has been too wet to get into most fields until the past 3 weeks. Livestock prices have been on the decline since the end of March at local markets. Many producers are seeing an increase in predator problems right now, namely coyotes, with calves and even older cattle.

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Cooler spring weather is holding back hay production, with half of the normal growth noted. Rainy weather may hurt first picking of strawberries - fruit beginning to ripen well. Some signs of gray mold wanting to start, partly due to less than optimal spray schedules - again, due to weather.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Hay getting off to a good start. Soil temperatures are still low for most crops. Plenty of rain fall/flooding.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Continued cool temperatures has the delayed emergence of corn planted over the past 2 weeks. In fields that have emerged, emergence has been good, but the corn is growing very slowly due to cool conditions. A few farmers applied fungicides for wheat head scab prevention as the crop is starting to flower and rainy conditions were forecast for early next week. Some fertilizer and herbicides were applied to full-season soybean land. A limited amount of hay was cut and made.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Conditions are wet and more rain is forecast for this week. Wheat looks good but rainy conditions may set off some diseases. Corn planting continues, wet, low ground fields still cannot be planted. Corn has stalled because of wet cool conditions and looks yellow and white in some fields. Reports of slugs also. Once conditions warm and dry up, corn should take off. Conditions still a little cool and damp for any soybean planting. Hay and pastures look much better and first cutting should be pretty good if curing conditions cooperate. Vegetable planting is slowly starting. Some cantaloupes and peppers have been set out and do not like the weather so far. Sweet corn is also slow getting going.

SOUTHEASTERN

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

Cool, wet weather has slowed corn germination and caused some yellow seedlings. Corn should recover and stands are still good. Wheat farmers are applying some fungicide sprays at heading for disease prevention due to wet weather and good yield/price potential. Limited problems with cereal leaf beetle in wheat thus far. Vegetables are off to a slow start with cool temperatures at planting.

MECKLENBURG

Tobacco transplanting progress slow due to cool, wet conditions.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Roy D. Flanagan III)

Wet, cool, and windy! There was not a whole lot of field progress made this week.

SOUTHERN

FRANKLIN (Cynthia Martel)

Franklin County has some rain last week with more rain expected this coming week. Cool temperatures and little sun this week coming. Beef cows on pasture already.

LUNENBURG (Lindy Tucker)

Tobacco transplanting began this week. Many of the producers worked through Sunday trying to beat the rain we are expecting this week. Temperatures are still cool. Problems with mildew everywhere and on some of the wheat. Reports of cereal leaf beetle problems around the area as well. The pastures are green and lush. The livestock are dropping their winter coat and looking much slicker and fatter. If we get the rain we are expecting the grass may get away from us before we can start cutting hay. Some pastures, though green, look poor due to lack of fertilization from high prices. Need to check on the grape producer to see how the vines are looking. Reports of fire blight on home fruit trees and pond weeds are coming in as well.

PITTSYLVANIA (Jamie Stowe)

Rainy, cloudy conditions have kept farmers out of the fields this week, essentially delaying tobacco planting by a week. Most producers tried to get in the field to start planting at the end of the week, but forecasts are calling for rain through next week too. Hay and pastures are starting to look nice and green and we are seeing some growth, but we are seeing seed heads in many of the fields are afraid we won't have enough growth and the weather hasn't warmed up enough for curing hay.

